

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

March 15, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Sysyn.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith and Forest

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Tracy Degges, 153 Cedar Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Police), stated:

We must remember that as we grow and change we need to make sure that we have all the services we need. Our Police Department is doing an excellent job of taking care of us but they need more to keep us safe. I understand that in a tight budget we all have to make compromises, but this cannot be the case for keeping us safe. We need more police in the Drug Unit and more Community Police on our City streets and I'd like to ask a question on the Board. In our Police Department...I know there's a federal law out that when they do a drug bust and if they know about a suspected building where there's drugs they can seize the property. I want to know if our City does that and if our City doesn't I'd like to know why. It can generate money and revenue for the Police Department that wouldn't put pressure on our City and all of its citizens. Thank you very much.

Representative Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: School Funding), stated:

Thank you, your Honor, members of the Board. I'm here tonight in the capacity of State Representative from Ward 8. I was sitting at home earlier this evening ready to put some shrimp on the barby and curl up for a nice evening of rest but I was watching the School Board meeting on the other channel and I saw Senator D'Allesandro talking about education funding. I hope you received a packet of material I sent to the Board last week and I did want to just speak briefly about the dangers of the education funding formula that so many people have blindly jumped on board to support which is also known as Governor Lynch's plan. Now, the member of the Ways and Means Committee our job is to try to come up with the \$250 million that isn't there from the revenue estimates that the Governor has proposed...I'm not a member of the Education Committee but I was on the Finance Committee in 1999 when we dealt with the original Claremont funding solution. Senator D'Allesandro was criticizing me for not being a lawyer, so how dare I have the authority to criticize the Governor's plan as unconstitutional. So, I'm appealing to you tonight since you know I'm not a lawyer and probably none of you are to ask the City Solicitor to review the Claremont decisions and determine whether in fact he in a neutral manner believes this plan is constitutional. Everybody I respect, except one person, on both sides of the aisle thoughtful democrats and republicans has assured me that there's no this plan is constitutional. What I'm hearing today is that this plan is not going to go forward...by the way the Senator is incorrect when he says that this plan is best for Manchester...as I pointed out to you in the enclosed document there is \$2.7 million more in the Fred King plan, so I hope you will not go by that old biblical admonition...I hope you'll follow it...there are none so blind as those who refuse to see. I hope you'll open your eyes and realize that the Governor's plan could leave Manchester getting only what it's getting this year because what we heard today is was that we may go to the fall back position which is the current plan without the additional \$55 million a year which would not give Manchester \$52 million as the King plan...\$49 million as the Governor's plan, but \$42 million as the current plan. Please do not be blind and do not follow this.

Karen Lesmerises (VNA), 1000 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Parent/Baby Fundraisers), stated:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak. I'm representing the need to continue parenting education programs in the City to prevent child abuse and neglect those most in need of services are the least able to pay...most programs are grant funded. Parent/Baby Adventures...it's been 18 years in existence providing classes, meals, transportation and GED classes, etc. located on Auburn Street. We always have the issue of revenue and we are having a fundraiser and we wanted this to be known.

Dottie...VNA, 1000 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH stated:

My name is Dottie and I can talk a little bit about the fundraiser. As Karen said the people that participate in VNA Parent/Baby Adventure...there's no charge to them...they're the most at risk and we are relying upon the Heritage United Way, the County and on-going fund raising so we have this new fund raiser which is coming up on April Fool's Day, it's Friday night, it's at Southern NH University and it's entitled "Adventures in Paradise". If you come and join us you will learn how to dance the salsa, the mambo, the rumba, you will have hearty culinary hors d'oeuvres prepared by the students at the university, you'll have complimentary beer and wine and you will have guaranteed fun. Tickets are \$50/person and they're available through the VNA.

An unnamed citizen stated:

I just wanted to say why we do this. One of the comments we got...I got this at Christmas...I wanted to let you know how much you mean to me even though I've been through a lot it made me happy knowing that if I ever needed help or just a friend you would be there. You're never one to judge me like most people do. For that you gave me hope even when I myself could not see any.

Mayor Baines stated thank you very much for taking the time to come here tonight and thank you for your support of that program. Before we begin...how can tickets be purchased for that fundraiser, a question was just asked. For people listening at home they should contact the Visiting Nurses Association. Thank you very much.

Glenn P. J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Police), stated:

I'm here to talk about the Police Department. We have a great resource. Sometime I wonder if we're using it wisely. They can only do so much and that's whatever we allow them to do. This past summer you cut their budget. I came here and commented about that that crime is going up. There was an article in the newspaper saying oh, crime's not going up. Finally, this past winter you finally gave them back some of their budget. You did the same thing with the Fire Department...mothballing a couple of the vehicles. This has to stop, safety comes first. How many times have I come to this Council and told you that we are having too many stabbings in this City. It's still happening...you hear it all the time. It's got to stop. You spent too much money on overtime, why don't you hire more officers...take that money and hire more officers. The bottom line is we need more police officers. The City is growing out of proportion...the population is going up. We're the second biggest community in New England, the second biggest fastest growing...that means that we have to take care of our infrastructure and some of that is our safety...police and fire. So, please this year when you do your budget think about that...think about the safety of the people. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Porter, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk